



MONROE THIS WEEK

November 18, 2016 Edition No. 44

Mayor

Geoffrey Thomas
gthomas@monroewa.gov

Councilmembers

Patsy Cudaback
Kevin Hanford
Ed Davis
Jason Gamble
Jim Kamp
Jeff Rasmussen
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City Hall

806 West Main Street
Monroe, WA 98272
Phone: 360.794.7400
Open 8AM – 5PM, M-F

Appointment Openings

Civil Service Commissioner

Job Openings

Design & Construction Supervisor
Finance Director
Lateral Police Officer
Senior Planner
www.monroewa.gov/jobs

Events this Week

- 11/22 ~~Monroe City Council Meeting, City Hall, Council Chambers, 7PM~~
CANCELLED
- 11/24 Thanksgiving/Day After,
- City Hall Closed
- 11/25
- 12/03 Light-Up Monroe,
Main St & Lewis,
3PM- 5PM

From the Office of Mayor Thomas

To highlight some of the things going on in our community, I am writing this weekly city update, "Monroe This Week." If you have any suggestions or questions regarding "Monroe This Week" or the stories below, please contact me at GThomas@MonroeWa.gov.

Yours in Service,

Mayor Geoffrey Thomas

***Please note there will be no MTW next week. City Staff, Council, and I, wish you a safe and happy Thanksgiving.**

Be In The Know!

Meeting with Newly Elected Officials!!

With the election in the rear view mirror, I am reaching out to our newly elected officials and allies who will help Monroe in moving our legislative priorities forward. On Wednesday, November 16, 2016, I met with Snohomish County Councilmember-Elect Sam Low and on Thursday, November 17, 2016, I met with State Senator-Elect Guy Palumbo.

Councilmember-Elect Low will be representing County Council District 5, which is generally the areas of the County that are east of State Route 9 along the US2 corridor; and includes the Cities of Lake Stevens, Snohomish, Monroe, Sultan, Gold Bar, and Index, and the Maltby community. County Council District 5 includes portions of three legislative districts including the 1st, 44th, and 39th (Monroe is in the 39th). Because Councilmember-Elect Low was elected to fill a position that was appointed earlier this year, he will begin serving as a Councilmember by November 29, 2016.

Senator-Elect Palumbo will be representing the State's 1st Legislative District, which is generally the area that includes the Cities of Bothell, Mountlake Terrace, Brier, and areas around Woodinville, portions of SR9, and the Maltby community to the Snohomish River. *(continued on next page)*

**City of Monroe
Year-to-Date Comparisons**

The following are year-to-date comparisons

Sales Tax Revenues

'15 to 10/31/15: \$3,359,189

'16 to 10/31/16: \$3,711,049

UP \$351,860 or 10.47%

Real Estate Excise Tax

'15 to 10/31/15: \$541,149

'16 to 10/31/16: \$780,837

UP \$239,688 or 44.29%

Lodging Tax Revenues

'15 to 10/31/15: \$56,983

'16 to 10/31/16: \$67,783

UP \$10,801 or 18.95%

Business License Fees

'15 to 10/31/15: \$39,523

'16 to 10/31/16: \$38,574

DOWN \$950 or -2.40%

Building Permit Revenues

'15 to 10/31/15: \$256,652

'16 to 10/31/16: \$560,978

UP \$304,326 or 118.58%

Planning Fee Revenues

'15 to 10/31/15: \$59,665

'16 to 10/31/16: \$104,485

UP \$44,820 or 75.12%

New House Permits

'15 to 10/31/15: 51

'16 to 10/31/16: 109

UP 58 units or 113.7%

Multi-Family Permits (# units)

'15 to 10/31/15: 13

'16 to 10/31/16: 4

DOWN 9 units or -69.2%

Building Division Inspections

'15 to 10/31/15: 1,462

'16 to 10/31/16: 2,009

UP 547 or 37.4%

(Officials Continued)

The portion of SR522 that remains incomplete is in the State's 1st Legislative District. Senator-Elect Palumbo will begin his 4-year term as State Senator on January 1, 2017.

I am working on contacting State Representative-Elect John Koster, who will be representing the State's 39th Legislative District, which includes Monroe.

In our meetings with Councilmember-Elect Low and Senator-Elect Palumbo, we talked about the City's 2017 Legislative Priorities. There were three main topics that we discussed: completing SR522; the need for better tools to manage issues related to illegal drugs and mental/behavioral health issues; and matching funds to install multi-purpose synthetic turf fields north of Frylands Elementary at Lake Tye. The majority of both discussions revolved around the need to complete SR522 and the steps Snohomish County, the State, and the City of Monroe could take to get work done on SR522. I am now working on scheduling a small meeting with Councilmember-Elect Low, Senator-Elect Palumbo, Monroe's City's lobbyist, and additional stakeholders in early December to determine "next steps" to prepare for the upcoming State legislative session beginning in January 2017.

As always, the City will continue to keep you updated as we work through the various hoops that it takes to get SR522 completed.

Lastly, THANK YOU to Councilmember-Elect Low and State Senator-Elect Palumbo for meeting with me in Monroe this week!!!

Citizens' Police Academy

Over the last two months, I have joined about two-dozen other residents, business owners, and members of Monroe-area non-profits to participate in Monroe's Citizens' Police Academy. The academy is offered once per year in the Fall and involves one three-hour evening class per week, three Saturday classes, and a ride-along with an officer. The academy teaches participants about the City of Monroe's Police Department and provides some hands-on training including simulation training with active shooters (done with an interactive video), shooting at a local range, driving in an obstacle course at the Speedway, and practicing traffic stops. Simply put, this is an awesome course that has taught class participants a great deal about Monroe's Police Department and about the law enforcement field. We have a great group of folks that protect and serve us. *(continued on next page)*

(Academy Continued)

THANK YOU to all of our police department staff who organized and presented at this year's Citizens' Police Academy!!

Lodging Tax Advisory Committee (LTAC) Update

Earlier this week, the LTAC met to consider applications for funding from the City's Lodging Tax Funds. These are funds received from a tax on hotel/motel stays. The funds are to be used to promote tourism related events and activities in Monroe. This year, LTAC received six applications for funding; from the following organizations: the Monroe Chamber of Commerce (for its visitors center function and events), the Evergreen Speedway (to supplement funding to promote the Red Bull Rallycross in September 2017), the City of Monroe (for its annual brochure of events and to supplement funding for Tri-Monroe Triathlon; the third application was pulled due to the event not returning next summer), and the Monroe Historical Society (for a new sign to help visitors locate the museum). LTAC voted to recommend funding for the applications this year and also voted to request the City Council authorize funding to provide for two application periods in 2017 - one in the January/February timeframe and one during the usual Fall application timeframe. For more information, please contact Staff Liaison, Pam Baker.

Sky Valley Food Bank

The Sky Valley Food Bank is gearing up for their holiday distribution. During this time, they can serve around 450 families for Thanksgiving and Christmas. They are in need of turkeys, chickens, and hams. They will also accept funds to purchase these items. Please think about donating to help families in the Monroe community. For more information please visit: <https://www.svfoodbank.org>.

Light Up Monroe!!

Join us Saturday, December 3, 2016, in Downtown Monroe to celebrate the winter season and ring in the holidays with our annual tree lighting ceremony, Light Up Monroe!

Downtown Monroe will be alive and festive for the holidays with music, crafts, indoor markets, local business retail specials, FREE pictures with Santa and Mrs. Claus, and so much more! So grab the family and all of your friends and come on out to Downtown Monroe for a great day of holiday cheer and shopping! *(continued on next page)*

(Light Up Monroe Continued)

The Tree Lighting Ceremony will take place at 5pm at the southwest corner of Main and Lewis Streets. Join City of Monroe Mayor Geoffrey Thomas as he leads the countdown to the lighting!!

For more details about all of the holiday events, check out the events calendar at www.choosemonroe.com

Stay Safe This Thanksgiving

The kitchen is the heart of the home, especially at Thanksgiving. Kids love to be involved in holiday preparations. Safety in the kitchen is important especially on Thanksgiving Day when there is a lot of activity and people at home. Thanksgiving is the peak day for home cooking fires.

- Stay in the kitchen when you are cooking on the stovetop so you can keep an eye on the food.
- Stay in the home when cooking your turkey and check on it frequently.
- Keep children away from the stove. The stove will be hot and kids should stay three feet away.
- Have activities that keep kids out of the kitchen during this busy time. Games, puzzles or books can keep them busy. Kids can get involved in Thanksgiving preparations with recipes that can be done outside the kitchen.

211

Need help finding training, employment, food banks, shelter, and assistance for aging parents, addiction prevention, programs for teens, affordable housing options, or support groups? Call 211 from any telephone.

Congratulations To Our Service Provider, Republic Services!

Congratulations to our contracted garbage & recycling service provider, Republic Services, for receiving a prestigious award from the office of the Secretary of State of Washington. Earlier this year, Mayor Thomas and City staff nominated Republic Services for the 2016 Corporations for Communities Award through the Washington Secretary of State Office, which honors exceptional Washington businesses that make it a priority to help the community. *(continued on next page)*

(Award Continued)

Over the past seven years Republic Services has continuously supported our community in areas such as key sponsorship support for the annual Movies Under the Moon series in our parks including purchase of a larger screen as the attendance at these popular outdoor movies has soared, annual financial support for our beautiful floral displays in the downtown including purchasing new stone flower planter pots for the newly renovated downtown, and in-kind donation of services to support our annual Egg Hunt and National Night Out Against Crime events, among others.

Republic Services was selected as one of four Washington companies to receive the award and were honored on Tuesday, November 15, 2016, by Secretary of State Kim Wyman and presented with a Secretaries of State Medallion Award during a ceremony in her office at the Capitol. Congratulations to Republic Services for a well-deserved award, and thank you for all that you do for Monroe!

Downtown Public Art Sculpture

The Monroe City Council authorized the Mayor to sign a Sculpture Services Agreement with Artist Kevin Pettelle, to create a sculpture to be placed in the newly-renovated downtown titled – “Wagner Swifts.” The art will be a metal sculpture representing Vaux’s Swifts and the Frank Wagner Elementary School’s chimney, which will garner both community and visitor interest in this unique feature of Monroe. The project is moving along well with the birds fabricated and the plaque is cast. The chimney base fabrication is underway, with an anticipated installation of the artwork in December 2016. We will announce a date for a celebration of the new sculpture in the downtown soon!

SMART 911

If you live, work or travel in Snohomish County you can now create a free online Safety Profile which provides vital information to emergency responders when you call 911. Smart911 is a free service that allows residents to provide critical information such as emergency contacts, children’s photos or medical information, on a secure website. This information is only accessible by emergency responders when you call 9-1-1.

Create your free Safety Profile today at: www.smart911.com

Community Crime Map Now Available

Snohomish County police agencies, in partnership with their two dispatch centers, SNOPAC and SNOCOM have released a new crime mapping system for Snohomish County citizens and business. The crime mapping system can be viewed at <http://communitycrimemap.com/>.

The Community Crime map goes beyond just mapping, it also allows the public to sign up for email alerts about crimes they want to be aware of within a certain distance of their homes, workplaces, and schools.

Project Updates!

191st, Blueberry & Kelsey, and SR522

The City of Monroe is working on planning for improvements to the Blueberry/Kelsey Intersection, reconnecting 191st to Chain Lake, and widening SR522. As part of moving these projects forward, staff and I will be working closely with the City Council and the community. The following summarizes next steps to move these projects forward:

- **Blueberry/Kelsey Intersection:** The City is looking at a variety of options to improve the safety and traffic flow at this intersection. City staff will be presenting a traffic study and options at the December 6th City Council meeting. This material will be available on-line in the Council Packets on December 2, 2016. A community open house is tentatively planned for January 12, 2017.
- **192st Connection to Chain Lake Road/North Kelsey:** The City is looking at three routes to reconnect 191st Avenue to Chain Lake Road/North Kelsey. City staff will be presenting these routes at the January 10, 2017, City Council meeting. The material will be available on-line in the Council Packets on January 6, 2017. A community open house is tentatively planned for January 26, 2017.
- **SR522:** The City of Monroe has been working with Snohomish County, the Washington Department of Transportation, and other stakeholders to develop options to make improvements between the Snohomish River Bridge and the stop light in the Maltby area on SR522. The next staff/stakeholder meeting is on November 30, 2016. We are working with the State to schedule a presentation to the City Council and have tentatively schedule the meeting of December 13, 2016. We will then be working with the State and County to schedule a community open house in mid-January 2017.